

CHARLES H. WRIGHT MUSEUM OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY



CHARLES H. WRIGHT MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

AGENCY MISSION

The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History exists to serve Metropolitan Detroit, national and international communities. We provide exceptional learning opportunities, exhibitions, programs, and events based on outstanding collections and research that explore the diverse history and culture of African Americans. It is a cultural and education facility that speaks with the unique voice of African American people and our programs, exhibits, and activities celebrate their rich heritage. The Museum also helps keep alive and engenders appreciation for the traditions and culture of African people around the world. In addition to the exciting exhibits and cultural programming in our galleries, classrooms, and lecture halls, the Museum promotes research and scholarship, maintains exhibits with cultural artifacts and a library and research center.

CURRENT FACILITIES

The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, the largest of its kind in the world dedicated to documenting, preserving, and educating the public is located at 315 E. Warren Ave., on five acres between Brush and John R.

The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History is a vital institution, providing 120,000 square feet of venues for the presentation and performance of works by today's African American artists, in literature, music, and the visual arts, including popular culture. The Museum's 317 seat theater, library and four galleries, combined with its education programs for people of all ages, creates a truly dynamic

community institution, one that is alive and continually evolving, and encourages participation by everyone. Our multipurpose rooms also function as a performance and celebration space, suitable for large meetings and dinners. In this way, the Museum not only provides a needed community meeting place but also through its space rentals, generates income to help support its operating needs. The Museum Store features African and African American books, games, toys, jewelry, art, and artifacts. The mezzanine level is reserved for administrative offices, including an impressive and sizeable executive Board Room.

Finally, the Museum serves the people of its local surroundings. Its presence as a dramatic architectural and communications showcase provides a spearhead for further urban revitalization, as well as a symbol of identity and pride. Local economic benefits include the provision of jobs, hotel and restaurant visits, and locally owned shops with African American themes and products.

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CAPITAL HISTORY

The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History was founded in 1965 by Dr. Charles H. Wright and 32 co-founders in three (3) row houses located on West Grand Boulevard. Originally named the International Afro-American Museum, the Museum heralded the accomplishments and perseverance of Black Americans through capture, slavery and into modern times. The Museum relocated to the 28,000 square foot facility on Frederick Douglass Street in 1987. There was an annual visitation of over 115,000 people.

The current facility opened in 1997 at a cost of \$38,480,000. The project was originally funded through block grant funds of \$3,535,000 and proceeds from an initial bond sale of \$20,000,000 authorized by a vote of the people in August 1992. In fiscal year 1996-97, \$4,945,000 of investment earnings were earmarked for the project, in addition to \$10,000,000 in general obligation bond sale proceeds.

In November 2000, voters approved \$4,000,000 in general obligation bonds towards ongoing building improvements and the construction of a parking deck. When plans for the parking deck were cancelled, \$2,000,000 was reallocated for the design of a new core exhibit.

In April 2003, voters approved another \$6,000,000 in general obligation bonds for a total of \$8,000,000 for the new core exhibit, entitled *And Still We Rise*. The Museum's Legacy Campaign successfully raised an additional \$7,000,000 in private and corporate donations to fund the remaining exhibit construction costs.

And Still We Rise is our journey through African American history and culture. This remarkable odyssey began in Africa more

than 3.5 million years ago and ends here, in modern Detroit. It is a story of survival, of unique cultures, the horror of slavery and the joy of emancipation. It is also a testament to the courage, determination, ingenuity and spiritual energy of African Americans as they pursued the full rights of citizenship.

This 22,000 square feet exhibition tells just some of the stories that African Americans have experienced and we expect to tell many more. Designed to incorporate new elements, the exhibit will periodically be revitalized with changing imagery and artifacts. Join us as we explore the lives of African Americans who are still searching, still believing and still rising!

And Still We Rise will enable visitors to experience:

- ♦ The legacy of Africa's ancient civilizations and its role as the origin of mankind.
- ♦ The inhumanity of a West African slave fortress and a transatlantic voyage within the hold of a slave ship.
- ♦ The economic promise but harsh conditions of a functioning automobile assembly line.
- ♦ The sights and sounds of Detroit's past while walking through Black Bottom and Paradise Valley.

And Still We Rise: Our Journey Through African American History and Culture, is scheduled to open to the public in November 2004.

Capital funds authorized for building improvements have been used to correct design flaws and construction deficiencies, as well as to enhance public spaces. Projects have included exterior lighting and sinkhole

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excavation, replacement of exterior handrails on walkways, bridge stone replacement, installation of glass paneled gallery doors, and the redesign and replacement of visitor entryways.

Capital funds authorized for building improvements have been used to correct design flaws and construction deficiencies, as well as, to enhance public spaces. Projects have included exterior lighting and sinkhole excavation, replacement of exterior handrails on walkways, bridge stone replacement, installation of glass paneled gallery doors, and the redesign and replacement of visitor entryways.

Plans for the balance of \$2,000,000 remaining in bonds are detailed below.

PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN

In conjunction with the \$43,000,000 Legacy Campaign launched in 2003, the Museum has five objectives to the fundraising drive:

- 1) build institutional capacity,
- 2) audience development and marketing,
- 3) annual operating support,
- 4) enhance the Museum experience, and
- 5) establish an Endowment.

Construction has begun on a new core exhibit and the space is scheduled to open in November 2004. To further maximize public and gallery areas, the Museum has begun plans to reconfigure some administrative offices to allow for the opening of a Black Inventors Gallery and a Children's Library. Capital support is also needed to correct building design flaws, maintain and enhance the facility.

CAPITAL RELATIONSHIPS: INTERDEPARTMENTAL AND KEY STAKEHOLDERS

There are no current interdepartmental capital relationships.

GOALS FOR CAPITAL PROGRAM

- To complete or correct remaining problems in the design and construction of the facility
- To make the facility more accessible and secure for visitors
- To make greater use of the facility's square footage to increase exhibition space and work areas
- Grow and diversify audience attendance to 175,000 visitors by 2007

RATIONALE FOR CAPITAL PROGRAM

In order for the Museum to meet its mission, we must take the steps necessary to ensure the facility functions as intended. As stewards of the City's treasures related to African American history and culture, we need to exhibit more of the collection in innovative ways. This means restructuring public spaces more efficiently, having adequate storage facilities and making the facility as accessible as possible to our visitors.

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Expand Gallery Spaces

In response to public demand and sponsor interest, plans are underway to create a highly interactive gallery to honor Black Scientists and Inventors. Initial concepts would place this new exhibit in space currently occupied by the administrative operations of the Museum's Sales & Retail department. It is estimated that total costs of \$500,000 are associated with the reconfiguration of all administrative office space to accommodate these new public spaces. Preliminary estimates of curatorial costs, including research, design and installation for this project total \$800,000. A total of \$1.0 million is being requested in support of this project. The planned opening is scheduled for Spring, 2007.

\$ 1,000,000 Unprogrammed

Facility Improvements

The eight-year old building at 315 E. Warren Avenue is in need of constant maintenance and repair to address residual problems stemming from design flaws and substandard construction. Other major repairs and maintenance, such as plaster and paint, are needed to preserve the building's natural beauty and architectural significance. Often, these repairs are unexpected and therefore, funds are requested over a five-year period.

2005-2006	\$200,000	General Obligation Bonds
2006-2007	200,000	General Obligation Bonds
2007-2008	200,000	General Obligation Bonds
2008-2009	200,000	General Obligation Bonds
2009-2010	200,000	General Obligation Bonds

Specific capital projects include, but are not limited to:

1. The Museum's dome leaks and has caused interior plaster damage that needs to be repaired.
2. The air handler system originally installed in the Museum was not designed for a facility of this size. To maintain appropriate temperatures and humidity in the galleries and archives, the system is operating beyond its normal range. As a result, it is expected the normal useful life of these units will be shorten.
3. Entry walkways are graded to gently slope towards the building doors. This causes rain or snow residue to run towards the building and not drain properly. The original entry doors have already been replaced due to the resulting corrosion. To correct this deficiency, walkways need to be graded to slope in the opposite direction, away from the building.

City of Detroit
Proposed Capital Agenda
FY 2005-06 through 2009-10

Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History

	<i>Project Status</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Impact on Budget</i>	<i>Impact on Staffing</i>	<i>Impact on Budget</i>	<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Auth. Unissued</i>	<i>Budget 2004-05</i>	<i>2005-06</i>	<i>2006-07</i>	<i>2007-08</i>	<i>2008-09</i>	<i>2009-10</i>	<i>Un- Program</i>	<i>Rec. 5-Year Plan Total</i>
Core Exhibit Space	N	U	NOI	NSI		G.O.		\$1,500							\$0
Expand Gallery Space	N	P	NOI	NSI		G.O.	\$1,000							\$1,000	\$0
Facility Improvements	M	O	NOI	NSI		G.O.	\$955		\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200		\$1,000
<i>Total by Funding Source</i>							<i>Auth Unissued</i>	<i>Budget 2004-05</i>	<i>2005-06</i>	<i>2006-07</i>	<i>2007-08</i>	<i>2008-09</i>	<i>2009-10</i>	<i>Un- Program</i>	<i>5-Year Total</i>
G.O.							\$1,955	\$1,500	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$1,000	\$1,000
<i>Total by Agency: Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History</i>								<i>Budget 2004-05</i>	<i>2005-06</i>	<i>2006-07</i>	<i>2007-08</i>	<i>2008-09</i>	<i>2009-10</i>	<i>Un- Program</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>
								\$1,500	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$1,000	\$3,500

Project Status: M=project is maintaining current infrastructure; N=project will result in new development
Project Timeline: P=project is proposed; O=project is ongoing; U=project is one time and underway
Impact on Operating Budget: AF=additional funding is required; RF=results in reduction of funding; NOI=no operating impact
Impact on Staffing Budget: AS=additional staffing is required; RS=results in reduction of staffing; NSI=no staffing impact
Impact on Operating Budget \$: annual additional funding or (reduction of funding) to operating budget